

A Day in the Life of the Hudson and Harbor 2017: Salinity

Your site: _____ If measured, your salinity on Oct 12, 2017: _____

2017 was the fifteenth year of A Day in the Life of the Hudson and Harbor. Thanks to all of the participants who made this year a success! Let's compare some of the data you collected with data from earlier years.



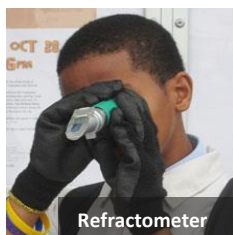
Salinity Data Table

Salinity can be reported in many different units. Here the units are **parts per million (ppm)** of chloride (Cl⁻) to help compare results from sites far apart on the estuary. In saltier areas, like New York City, salinity is usually measured in **parts per thousand (ppt)** total salinity. **River miles (RM)** are measured north from the Battery in NYC.

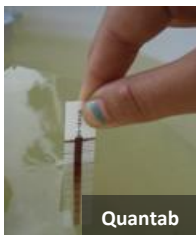
RM	Site	2011	2012	2016	2017
97	Ulster Landing	18 ppm	28 ppm	39 ppm	32 ppm
76	Poughkeepsie	32 ppm	28 ppm	136 ppm	32 ppm
57	Kowawese	26 ppm	96 ppm	2,768 ppm	919 ppm
41	Verplanck	55 ppm	1,610 ppm	4,428 ppm	4,273 ppm
25	Piermont Pier	1,250 ppm	4,428 ppm	6,366 ppm	6,642 ppm
4	Pier 84 NYC	1,383 ppm	8,580 ppm	11,071 ppm	11,624 ppm



Hydrometer



Refractometer



Quantab

People use different tools to measure salinity. Hydrometers and refractometers are best used in saltier water, while quantabs are best for fresh and slightly salty water.

1. The salt front (the leading edge of dilute sea water entering the Hudson) is located where salinity reaches 100 ppm.

- Which sites were considered freshwater in 2017?
- In what year shown did the salt front reach the farthest north? Why might this be? Hint: How might weather affect salinity?
- In what year shown was the salt front the farthest south? What conditions would cause this?

2. Where was the salt front on October 12, 2017?

Use a pencil to plot salinity readings for 2017 (found in the table above) on the graph below.

- Place a point for salinity readings from Piermont to Ulster Landing directly above the listed river mile.
- Using a ruler, draw a line from one point to the next. Start at the point for the lowest river mile and continue to the highest.
- The salt front is located where salinity equals 100 ppm of chlorides. Using your graph plot and the horizontal line at 100 ppm, estimate (in river miles) the position of the salt front on October 12.

River Mile _____

- On October 12th students at Chelsea Boat Launch (RM 65) measured a salinity of 110 ppm. Plot this new piece of data on your graph and connect the surrounding data points. How does your graph change with the addition of this new data point? Where would you place the salt front?

River Mile _____

